

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A router system comprising:

a plurality of virtual routers, at least one virtual router of the plurality of virtual routers is configured to operate as a backbone router and at least one other virtual router of the plurality of virtual routers is configured to operate as a regional router;

at least one resource shared by the plurality of virtual routers; and

a resource allocator configured to control access to the at least one resource by the plurality of virtual routers.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (original) The router system of claim 1 wherein the router system is a single high-capacity router.
5. (original) The router system of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of virtual routers is associated with a router profile that is configured to store one or more virtual router attributes.

6. (currently amended) The router system of claim 5 wherein the one or more virtual router attributes include at least one of an identifier, a password, resource access level information, [[and]] or resource sharing priority information.

7. (original) The router system of claim 6 wherein the one or more virtual router attributes include resource sharing priority information for each of the at least one resource.

8. (original) The router system of claim 5 wherein the resource allocator controls access to the at least one resource based on at least one of the one or more virtual router attributes.

9. (currently amended) The router system of claim 1 wherein the at least one resource includes one or more of a control resource, a data resource, a routing process, [[and]] or a forwarding process.

10. (currently amended) The router system of claim 1 wherein the at least one resource includes one or more of switching fabric bandwidth [[and]] or port bandwidth.

11. (original) The router system of claim 1 wherein the at least one resource includes a common memory.

12. (original) The router system of claim 1 further comprising:
a resource-shared information base configured to maintain the at least one resource.
13. (original) The router system of claim 12 wherein the resource-shared information base is further configured to store a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of virtual routers.
14. (currently amended) The router system of claim 13 wherein the plurality of attributes includes at least two or more of a virtual router identifier, a bandwidth parameter for each interface with which a respective virtual router is associated, a routing table size parameter, a routing table pointer, a forwarding table size parameter, a forwarding table pointer, an internal interface parameter, [[and]] or an internal interface address.
15. (currently amended) A method for configuring a router system, comprising:
configuring a plurality of virtual routers, at least one virtual router of the plurality of virtual routers being configured to operate as a backbone router and at least one other virtual router of the plurality of virtual routers being configured to operate as a regional router;
defining at least one resource to be shared by the plurality of virtual routers; and
creating a router profile for each of the plurality of virtual routers.
16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the configuring includes:

setting a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of virtual routers.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the plurality of attributes include at least two of:

a virtual router identifier, a bandwidth parameter for each interface with which a respective virtual router is associated, a routing table size parameter, a routing table pointer, a forwarding table size parameter, a forwarding table pointer, an internal interface parameter, [[and]] or an internal interface address.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one resource includes one or more of a control resource, a data resource, a routing process, [[and]] or a forwarding process.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one resource includes one or more of switching fabric bandwidth [[and]] or port bandwidth.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one resource includes a common memory.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the router profile includes at least one of a user identifier, a user password, resource access level information, [[and]] or resource sharing priority information.

22. (original) The method of claim 21 wherein the router profile includes resource sharing priority information for each of the at least one resource.

23. (currently amended) In a router system, a method for controlling allocation of a group of shared resources by a plurality of virtual routers, the method comprising:

receiving a request for allocation of one of the shared resources from at least one of the plurality of virtual routers, the request including security information and priority information;

determining whether the request is authentic based on the security information; and

granting the request when the request is authentic and based on the priority information.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the router system includes a resource-shared information base that is configured to store resource allocation information for each of the plurality of virtual routers, and

wherein the method further comprises:

updating the resource-shared information base based on the granting.

25. (canceled)

26. (currently amended) The method of claim [[25]] 23 wherein the priority information relates to the one shared resource.

27. (currently amended) A router system comprising:
a plurality of virtual routers configured to share at least one resource, each of the plurality of virtual routers being associated with a router profile that defines a security level and resource sharing priority for the virtual router;
a resource-shared information base configured to maintain the at least one resource; and
a resource allocator configured to receive a request for access to the at least one resource and grant access to the at least one resource to one of the plurality of virtual routers based on the profile of security level and resource sharing priority associated with the one virtual router.

28. (original) The router system of claim 27 wherein the resource-shared information base is further configured to:

store a plurality of attributes for each of the plurality of virtual routers.

29. (currently amended) The router system of claim 28 wherein the plurality of attributes includes at least two of:

a virtual router identifier, a bandwidth parameter for each interface with which a respective virtual router is associated, a routing table size parameter, a routing table pointer, a

forwarding table size parameter, a forwarding table pointer, an internal interface parameter, [[and]] or an internal interface address.

30. (new) A router system comprising:

a first virtual router configured to operate as a backbone router; and
a second virtual router configured to operate as a regional router.

31. (new) The router system of claim 30 further comprising:

at least one resource that is shared by the first virtual router and the second virtual router.

32. (new) The router system of claim 31 further comprising:

a resource allocator configured to control access to the at least one resource by the first virtual router and the second virtual router based on security information and priority information.